Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 295195

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REQUESTED BY USITC ON AUSTRALIAN ACTIONS ON CERTAIN SWIMMING POOLS IMPORTED FROM JAPAN

- 1. THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION (USITC) IS CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION UNDER SECTION 337 OF THE TARIFF ACT OF 1930 CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OF UNFAIR ACTS AND UNFAIR METHODS OF COMPETITION BY ASAHI CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES CO., LTD. OF JAPAN IN THE IMPORTATION AND SALE IN THE UNITED STATES OF CERTAIN ABOVE GROUND SWIMMING POOLS. THE ALLEGED UNFAIR ACTS ARE, INTER ALIA, PREDATORY PRICING INVOLVING SALES IN THE UNITED STATES BELOW THE COST OF PRODUCTION IN JAPAN, WITH THE INTENT OF RESTRAINING OR MONOPOLIZING TRADE IN THE UNITED STATES. ASAHI IS A CORPORATION BELIEVED OWNED AND OPERATED BY MASAKAZU (MIKE) SATO, A JAPANESE NATIONAL.
- 2. DURING THE COURSE OF A HEARING ON THE MATTER, UNDOCUMENTED ORAL TESTIMONY WAS OFFERED THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS COMPLETED AN INVESTIGATION OF

ACTIVITIES OF THIS SAME COMPANY IN AUSTRALIA CONCERNING DUMPING, SALES BELOW COST, ATTEMPTS TO RESTRAIN TRADE, DISCRIMINATORY PRICING, OR ATTEMPTED MONOPOLIZATION.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH ITS INVESTIGATION, THE USITC IS SEEKING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. DID THE GOA CONDUCT SUCH AN INVESTIGATIONINVOLVING POOLS MADE BY THE FIRM IN QUESTION? IF SO, WHAT AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT OF THE GOA CONDUCTED THE INVESTIGATION?

- B. THE NATURE OF THE ALLEGED OFFENSE, IF ANY.
- C. THE TIME, PLACE, AND LOCATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN PROCEEDING.
- D. THE CONCLUSION REACHED IN THE INVESTIGATION AND THE BASIS OF THE CONCLUSION.
- E. ANY EVIDENCE OF THE NAMED FIRM'S COST OF PRODUCING THE POOLS IN JAPAN.
- F. ANY EVIDENCE OF SALES PRACTICES BY THE NAMED FIRM WHICH SUPPORTS THE INFERENCE OF SYSTEMATIC INTENT TO RESTRAIN OR MONOPOLIZE TRADE.
- G. WHAT WERE THE SPECIFIC SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED IN THE INVESTIGATION?
- 4. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ASSIST THE USITC IN ITS INVESTIGATION IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:
- A. AIRMAIL ASAP A COPY OF ALL PUBLIC DOCUMENTS (NOTICES OF INVESTIGATION, REPORTS, FINDINGS, ETC.) ISSUED BY THE

GOA ON SUCH AN INVESTIGATION WHICH PERTAIN TO THE SUBJECTS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE TO MR. STEVEN K. MORRISON, INVESTIGATIVE ATTORNEY, USITC, 701 E STREET NW., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20436.

B. SEND BY TELEGRAM (1) A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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DOCUMENTS BEING AIRMAILED, AND (2) ANY INFORMATION
THE EMBASSY CAN OBTAIN RELATING TO THE SUBJECTS IN
PARAGRAPH 3. TELEGRAPHIC RESPONSE SHOULD BE "UNCLASSIFIED/
ANY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WHICH CANNOT BE PLACED ON THE
PUBLIC RECORD SHOULD BE SENT IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM. KISSINGER

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TAGS: ETRD, JA, US, AS, USITC, ASAHI CHEMICAL IND LTD

To: CANBERRA

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